



SERVING THE LORD IN

GERMANY

NEWS FROM DEACONESS KIM BUELTSMANN

Deaconess in Deutschland
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Where is Leipzig?

LEIPZIG

Leipzig, Germany, population 582,000, is located in the former East in the German state of Saxony.

The group who formed the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod came from Saxony. For the last 27 years of his life, Johann Sebastian Bach was the cantor of the Thomaskirche in Leipzig. Leipzig also played a significant role in the Reformation.

Sadly, despite this rich Lutheran history, the effects of the Nazi and Communist eras left many in Leipzig with no understanding of grace and salvation in Christ.

Now refugees in Leipzig from the Middle East are eagerly learning the truth of the Gospel!

Opportunities to share the Word of God abound in Leipzig!

Connect with me:

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Deaconess in Deutschland

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Called to share the refuge of Christ with refugees



Pastor Hugo Gevers baptizes a child from Iran at the SELK church in Leipzig, where I will also be serving.

Millions of people from the Middle East seek refuge in Germany. I get to tell them about an even greater refuge that can be found in Christ! In this season of anticipation, I eagerly anticipate beginning ministry in Germany! It has been almost 2 years since I first was approached about the possibility of serving in this role. Even though I had not been looking for a change, I could see how God had prepared me and was calling me to this mission.

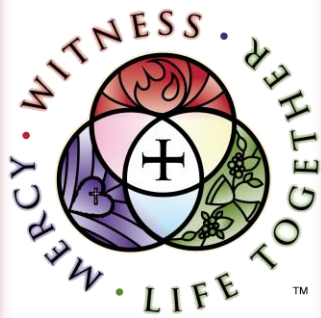
I grew up at a Lutheran camp in central Illinois, where abiding in the Word was a way of life, and future church workers and missionaries were my role models. As I grew in faith during confirmation, I also became active in Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, which opened my eyes to the need for sharing the Gospel and gave me the ability to more confidently share my faith with others.

Meanwhile, after learning some basic German from my grandparents as a child, and visiting my brother stationed in Germany, I was eager to study German in high school. While visiting Germany my senior year, I discovered how few Germans attended church and how little they knew about Jesus. On that trip, the desire to be a missionary in Germany was born.

As the culmination of my studies at Concordia Chicago, I served a 2 year deaconess internship in Gifhorn, Germany in a mission congregation of our partner church, the SELK (Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church). This congregation was established as a mission for Germans from Russia.

After graduation I served St. John Lutheran Church and School in Champaign, IL for 8 years as the Director of Family Ministry, followed by 7 years as Director of Campus Ministry at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Now I step out in faith, leaving friends, family, and the comforts of home, with peace knowing Christ goes with me and before me. He has called me to serve refugees who had to leave their homes, so I can tell them the Good News about an eternal home we have through Christ. Christ gave up everything, leaving His home to come to earth as a little baby, taking on the form of a servant to lay down His life for us. Now we have forgiveness of sins, and because He rose again, He has guaranteed us an eternal home and certain refuge in Him forever. As we think of being home for the holidays this year, may we remember our true home with the Babe in the manger.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Final details to come together as I prepare for deployment to Leipzig.*
- *Farsi language learning.*
- *Boldness to share the Gospel in every opportunity.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The congregations who have welcomed me into their midst to speak about refugee outreach in Germany.*
- *Gracious host families!*
- *Good health and safe travels during this time of network support building.*
- *The ministry in Leipzig that has already been going on to reach refugees with the Gospel.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The many individuals, groups, and congregations who are praying for, encouraging, and supporting me in this mission!*

Network Support Building



One of the special groups I have visited in the last few months.

These past few months have been a whirlwind as I received and accepted the call to serve in Germany in June, began new missionary orientation in July, and have traveled over 10,000 miles since to raise the support necessary to send me to Germany.

God's faithfulness has been evident every step of the way. I have been able to catch up with longtime friends and make many new ones! It has been a true joy to meet so many of you and be welcomed into your churches and homes!

I am so thankful for the prayers, encouragement, and support that you have so graciously given!

There are so many stories I could share about the special people I have encountered. One particular young boy from northern Illinois stands out in my mind. He came to my table after church to pick up a prayer card and tell me that he has friends in Germany.

"Do you know they don't go to church?" he asked me. "I've been praying for them.

You're an answer to my prayers for someone to share the Gospel with people in Germany!"

What an inspiration to witness the faith of a child who already realizes the urgent need for the Word of God to be proclaimed to the ends of the earth! It is a humbling joy and honor to be his missionary and yours. Thank you for partnering to send me to shine the Light of Christ to those in darkness.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5

- Deaconess Kim



To help Deaconess Kim continue to share the refuge we have in Christ with refugees, send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E - 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and include Buelmann/Germany on the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely online at lcms.org/Buelmann or by phone by calling 1-888-930-4438.